Atlantic Richfield Company

Atlantic Richfield Company

4 Centerpointe Drive, 4-435
La Palma, CA 90623
Direct: (714) 228-6770

April 5, 2013

Mr. Steven Way
On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Program (8EPR-SA)
US EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Delivered via e-mail

Subject: March 2013 Monthly Progress Report
Rico-Argentine Mine Site – Rico Tunnels
Operable Unit OU01, Rico, Colorado

Dear Mr. Way,

This progress report describes activities conducted during the month of March, 2013 at the Rico-Argentine Mine Site (site) and activities anticipated to occur during the upcoming month. These activities are organized by task as identified in the Removal Action Work Plan. This progress report is being submitted in accordance with Paragraph 35.a of the Unilateral Administrative Order for Removal Action (the "UAO"), dated March, 2011.

ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH

This section describes significant developments during the preceding period including actions performed and any problems encountered during this reporting period.

Site-Wide Activities

- Digital archives continue to be reviewed by the Atlantic Richfield project team for information that may provide a better understanding of the Rico site.
- Continued avalanche hazard studies of the St. Louis Ponds Site and the Argentine Mill Site/Access Road.
- Continued avalanche monitoring specific to site conditions and access routes.
- Conducted site-specific avalanche hazard forecasting.

Task A – Pre-Design and Ongoing Site Monitoring

- Reviewing November and December Surface Water Sampling Reports and cross sectional transect data prior to posting to the project SharePoint site. (https://extranet.aecom.com/sites/ricostlouis/SitePages/Home.aspx)
- The March water sampling event was initiated on March 5, 2013 and completed March 25, 2013.
- March sampling event groundwater samples and water levels were obtained from the following groundwater wells: GW-1, GW-3, GW-4, GW-5, GW-6, EB-1, EB-2, MW-101, MW-102, MW-103, MW-104, MW-204, CHV-101, P13-102, P13-103, MW-1 DEEP, MW-1 SHALLOW, MW-2 DEEP, MW-3 DEEP, MW-4 DEEP, MW-4 SHALLOW, MW-5 DEEP, MW-5 SHALLOW, MW-6 DEEP, and MW-6 SHALLOW. The following wells were found to be dry: MW-202, MW-2 SHALLOW, and MW-3 SHALLLOW.

- During the March sampling event, surface water samples were collected from locations DR-3, DR-4, DR-5 and DR-6.
- During the March sampling event, Dolores River water samples and flow measurements were collected from DR-2 and DR-7. Grab samples as well as multi-point composite samples were obtained from the two referenced river locations.
- During March, flumes were inspected for debris and ice buildup. The flumes were cleared as required.
- Downloaded available flume data for March 2013 from the Parshall flume data loggers. The most recent data was obtained from the OTT PLS pressure transducer at north flume (DR-3) and from OTT Orpheus Mini at south flume (DR-6). The data will be posted to the project data SharePoint site in April. Diagnostic function testing was completed on the transducers at DR-3 and DR-6. DR-6 is performing within its sensitivity range. The DR-3 transducer is scheduled for replacement due to loss of sensitivity next month.
- Data from the pressure transducer located in angle borehole AT-2 was not collected due to snow and avalanche hazard within the St Louis Tunnel cut area. Safe access will be assessed for future data collection.
- Conducted inspection of the pond system spillways, pipes, water levels and general conditions. Overall condition of the pond good. All spillways and pipes observed to be flowing without obstructions or excessive icing.
- Continued work on overall site Data Management System (EQuIS) development. Web site with data in tabular format has been set up and is currently being tested and refined. Completed setup of some standard data queries to retrieve the data that is needed. Web site for querying data from a map is nearing completion.
- Continued development of the conceptual site model (CSM).

Task B – Management of Precipitation Solids in the Upper Settling Ponds

- St. Louis adit discharge water was diverted to Pond 15 during March 2013. Pond 18 has not been in use during March due to seeps and leakage from a partially buried historic plastic pipe between Pond 18 and 15 observed in November. Repairs of the Pond 18 pipe seep area scheduled for May 2013.
- Pond 18 was closely monitored for seepage conditions and no leaks or seeps were observed as could be seen with snow cover during March 2013. Pond 18 was frozen during early March and is currently thawing. The pond is not in use.
- The St Louis Pond system embankments, flow and general conditions were inspected during March 2013. The ponds have adequate freeboard. Flow into and between the ponds is not blocked, and the overall condition of the embankments appears good.
- Prepared the solids removal plan for Pond 11 and 12 for discussion and submittal to EPA in late April.

Task C – Design and Construction of a Solids Repository

- Continued work on geotechnical analyses of alternative solids drying facility and repository sites, focusing current attention on Pond 13.

Task D – Hydraulic Control Measures for the Collapsed Area of St. Louis Tunnel Adit

- Evaluation continued of jack and bore, tunneling and open-cut alternatives to access the Hermosa Formation in the St. Louis Tunnel as the target location of installation of hydraulic controls.

Task E – Source Water Investigations and Controls

- Continued Blaine Tunnel water depth and flow monitoring behind the Blaine Coffer Dam and Blaine Flume. Data was downloaded on March 7, 2013.